

## Claims

1. A method of protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one  
5 compound which blocks the effects of pressure on neuronal cells.
2. A method of protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell death which comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one  
10 compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells.
3. A method for the treatment of glaucoma which comprises administering to a  
15 subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in eye neuronal cells.
4. A method for the treatment of the effects of elevated brain pressure which  
20 comprises administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in brain neuronal cells.
5. A method for the treatment of peripheral nerve damage which comprises  
25 administering to a subject in need of such treatment at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells.
6. A composition for protecting neural tissue from pressure induced apoptotic cell  
30 death which comprises at least one compound which blocks the effects of pressure on neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.

7. A composition for the treatment of glaucoma which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.
- 5 7. A composition for the treatment of elevated brain pressure which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms in brain neuronal cells, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.
- 10 8. A composition for the treatment of peripheral nerve damage which comprises at least one compound which blocks stretch-activated channels in peripheral neuronal cells (either directly or indirectly) or other pressure sensitive cellular mechanisms, optionally in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or excipients.
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